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WASHINGTON WIRE

Capitol City Whirl Gets in High Gear

BY MARY ANN PARSONS

Chronicle Correspondent

Washington — At long last the Tom Bartles have acquired a picture that's big enough to conform to the gigantic proportions of their recreation room—it's the billboard-size photograph of Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson that dominated one of the floats in the inaugural parade last January.

"The room (75 by 40 feet) used to look rather bare," said Paty Bartle, "but that's all changed now."

Most people, caught up in the Washington social whirl, have to start counting calories to offset the savory dishes and rich pastries served at formal luncheons and dinners, but not Ida Nell Connally, the attractive wife of Secretary of the Navy John B. Connally, Jr. At a recent luncheon given by the wives of the Texas Congressional delegation, Nellie confided that she has lost eight pounds during the short time she has been here.

"I scarcely touch my food, I'm so nervous for fear I'll be called on to make a speech afterwards," she said with a laugh. At the Texas luncheon where she was surrounded by long-time friends, she enjoyed her food with relish.

Two First Ladies

The day Mrs. John F. Kennedy left for an Easter visit to Palm Beach, she was honored at a luncheon given by a former mistress of the White House, Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, at her home on S Street.

Coming up from Richmond for the luncheon were Mrs.

J. Lindsay Almond, wife of the governor of Virginia, and Mrs. Benjamin Alsop. Other guests included three of Mrs. Wilson's nieces, Mrs. Mary R. Fowler, Mrs. Barbara Fuller, and Mrs. Sterling Bolling, and also Mrs. James Helm, who was social secretary at the White House during the Truman administration.

Mrs. Kennedy wore an off-white two-piece wool dress with beige gloves and beige alligator pumps and bag. Mrs. Wilson, who received her guests on the second floor drawing room, was attired in a black lace dress.

Mrs. G. Mennen Williams, wife of the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, said she is looking forward to returning to Africa with her husband next month. During their recent tour of 16 African nations, Nancy Williams said she saw a great deal more of the people than "Soapy," because much of his time was spent conferring with government leaders.

Cherry Blossoms

Since their return, Nancy has been besieged with requests to make speeches. She said if she made all the

speeches she's been asked to make "I'd have no time for anything else."

This year's cherry blossom queen will be the proud possessor of a luscious blush pink coronation gown—a gift of the festival committee. Designed by Werie of California, it is fashioned of lace appliqued on organza, and features a deeper pink silk cummerbund.

The queen will be chosen by a spinning Wheel of Fortune set in motion by Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson at the Festival Ball Friday night at the Sheraton Park Hotel.

Sharing the Texas table at the luncheon will be Mrs. Bob Casey of Houston, whose congressman husband is the new president of the Texas State Society; Mrs. Charles P. Cabell, wife of Gen. Cabell, deputy director of CIA; Mrs. W. Harvey Young and her daughter, Mrs. H. J. Miller, Jr., whose husband was recently appointed assistant attorney general; Mrs. Tom Bartle, and Mrs. Howard H. Oldham, whose daughter, Elizabeth, is the Texas cherry blossom princess.

Mrs. Cabell's daughter, Katy, who was the Texas princess in 1957, will be one of the luncheon hostesses.

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